

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7756

BILL NUMBER: HB 1785

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 24, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Feb 10, 2003

SUBJECT: Reentry Court Program.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Moses

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Wyss

BILL STATUS: As Passed - House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X

**GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires a court to notify the local Office of Family and Children if an individual commits a felony or is terminated from a reentry court program during the period in which the individual is eligible for food stamps or TANF.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) Federal regulations provide that an individual convicted of a felony involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance is not eligible for benefits under the Food Stamp program or the TANF program. This bill provides that the state elects to opt out of this federal prohibition for individuals successfully participating in a reentry court program in any county in Indiana.

The Reentry Court Program was created to supervise and provide services for offenders who are being released from the Department of Correction. Currently, the Allen Superior Court operates the only Reentry Court in Indiana. Currently, 61 adults who were sentenced as drug offenders participate in the program. The estimated cost per month for TANF assistance and IMPACT supportive services is about \$7,200 per adult.

The Food Stamps program is a federally funded program with the state responsible for eligibility determination. Additional individuals eligible for this program would have minimal impact on the state.

However, the TANF program is cost-shared with funding coming through a federal block grant and state General Fund appropriations. TANF assistance is available to families with children under the age of 18 that are deprived of financial support from a parent by reason of death, absence from the home, unemployment, or physical or mental incapacity. A family may not possess assets valued in excess of \$1,000 at the time application for assistance is made, and countable income may not be greater than \$229 per month for a family of one adult and one child (the income requirement would vary by family size). Assuming the individual would otherwise qualify for TANF, the individual is assumed to be eligible for employment and training

services provided to families receiving cash assistance.

This provision should have no impact on the Medicaid program.

Explanation of State Revenues: See *Explanation of State Expenditures* regarding expenditures in the Medicaid program.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Family and Social Services Administration.

Local Agencies Affected: Allen Superior Court.

Information Sources: Judge John Surbeck, Allen Superior Court; Melanie Bella, OMPP, (317) 233-4455.

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